

NEW JERSEYANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for New Jerseyans. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in New Jersey. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in New Jersey.

INCOME: NEW JERSEYANS ARE BARELY EARNING MORE TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO

- In 2000, the median income in New Jersey was \$57,698¹
- In 2005, the median income in New Jersey was \$60,246, an increase of 4.4 percent.²

HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN NEW JERSEY HAS GROWN UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS

- In 2000, New Jersey had 979,000 adults without insurance (11.9 percent).³
- In 2005, New Jersey had 1,324,000 adults without insurance (15.2 percent).⁴
- New Jersey had 129,591 children benefit from the SCHIP Program.⁵ If funding is not restored by Congress to the SCHIP program, New Jerseyans will face a funding shortfall of \$150,001,000.⁶

EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN NEW JERSEY

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in New Jersey was \$11,998.⁷ In 2005, it was \$16,349, a 36 percent increase.⁸
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in New Jersey was \$23,860.⁹ In 2005, it was \$29,751, a 25 percent increase.¹⁰
- Number of New Jerseyans affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 121,775¹¹
- Number of New Jerseyans affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 127,597¹²

GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR NEW JERSEY RESIDENTS

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in New Jersey was \$1.348 a gallon.¹³
- Today the average cost of gas in New Jersey is \$2.358 a gallon.¹⁴
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in New Jersey was \$2,041.¹⁵

- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in New Jersey is \$3,571, \$1,529 (74.9 percent) more than it was in 2001.¹⁶

SOCIAL SECURITY: NEW JERSEYANS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in New Jersey – 1,370,440¹⁷
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in New Jersey – \$979¹⁸

IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: NEW JERSEYANS ON THE FRONT LINES

- Number of New Jerseyans killed in Iraq – 44¹⁹
- Number of New Jerseyans wounded in Iraq – 316²⁰
- Number of New Jerseyans killed in Afghanistan – 8²¹
- Number of New Jerseyans wounded in Afghanistan – 23²²
- Number of Veterans in New Jersey – 582,917²³

REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING NEW JERSEY'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS

- Only 1,112 estates in New Jersey paid an Estate Tax in 2004.²⁴
- Only 232 estates in New Jersey will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.²⁵
- In contrast, 129,000 workers in New Jersey would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.²⁶

CRIME: FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY POLICING DISAPPEARING

- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2002 – 24,587,208²⁷
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2006 – 4,148,995²⁸

TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST NEW JERSEYANS

The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest New Jerseyans.

- In 2001, the richest one percent of New Jersey residents each received an average of \$4,100 in tax cuts, while middle class New Jersey residents received only \$412.²⁹
- In 2006, the richest one percent of New Jersey residents will receive an average of \$53,472 in tax cuts, while middle class New Jersey residents will only receive \$764.³⁰
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of New Jersey residents will each receive an average of \$101,181 in tax cuts, while middle class New Jersey residents will only receive \$881.³¹

The richest New Jerseyans receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.

- In 2001, the richest New Jerseyans received 9.6 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 16.7 percent of the tax cut.³²
- But, in 2006, the richest New Jerseyans will get 31.3 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 7.7 percent of the tax cut.³³
- And, in 2010, the richest New Jerseyans will get 53.1 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 8.5 percent of the tax cut.³⁴

Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest New Jerseyans.

- In 2010, the richest New Jerseyans will receive an average of \$14,275 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest New Jerseyans will be getting 51.1 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.³⁵
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class New Jerseyans will receive an average of \$85 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 5.3 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.³⁶

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